WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network device, comprising:

    a) at least one port;

    b) at least two call processors, operable to convert incoming call data into outgoing call data;

    c) a memory operable to store call identifications and any call processor associated with those call identifications;

    d) a central processing unit, operable to:

        i) access the memory to determine if a call is already associated with a call processor

        ii) to assign a call processor if none is assigned; and

        iii) update the memory to reflect new assignments.

2. The network device of claim 1, wherein the network device is a gateway.

3. The network device of claim 1, wherein the network device is a router.

4. The network device of claim 1, wherein the central processing unit is one of the call processors.

5. The network device of claim 1, wherein the memory further comprises ternary content addressable memory.

6. A method of controlling calls in a gateway, the method comprising:

    a) receiving a call setup message for a call from a sending device;

    b) determining if a call processor is associated with the call;

    c) locating a call processor that has the least amount of processing load, if no call processor is associated with the call;

    d) routing the setup message to the call processor with the least amount of load; and

    e) establishing a connection between the call processor and the sending device.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the call setup message is sent with fast start open logical channel.

9

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the call setup message is in accordance with H.225.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein the call setup message is encapsulated in a UDP packet.

10. The method of claim 6 wherein establishing a connection between the call setup message and the sending device further comprises establishing a logical channel in accordance with H.245.

11. A network device, comprising:

    a) a connection means;

    b) at least two processing means for converting incoming call data into outgoing call data;

    c) a means for storing call identifications and any call processor associated with those call identifications;

    d) means for:

        i) accessing the memory to determine if a call is already associated with a call processor;

        ii) assigning a call processor if none is assigned; and

        iii) updating the memory to reflect new assignments.

12. The network device of claim 12, wherein the means for accessing the memory is one of the at least two processing means.

13. The network device of claim 12, wherein the means for storing call identifications further comprises a ternary content addressable memory.

14. An article containing machine-readable code that, when executed, causes the machine to:

    a) receive a call setup message for a call from a sending device;

    b) determine if a call processor is associated with the call;

    c) locate a call processor that has the least amount of processing load, if no call processor is associated with the call;

    d) route the setup message to the call processor with the least amount of load; and

e) establish a connection between the call processor and the sending device.

15. The article of claim 14, wherein the machine is a network device.

16. The article of claim 14, wherein the machine is a gateway.

17. The article of claim 14, wherein the code causing the machine to establish a connection

5   between the call processor and the sending device is in compliance with H.245.

18. The article of claim 14, wherein the setup message complies with H.225.